

## Monkeypox Collection and Shipping Directions For Health Care Providers

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be used by healthcare personnel who enter a patient's room should include: gown, gloves, eye protection (goggles or face shield), N95 or higher level respirator.

### Specimen Collection

At a minimum, collect two lesion swabs as follows:

- Use a sterile nylon, polyester, or Dacron swab with a plastic, wood, or thin aluminum shaft. Do not use other types of swabs.
- Swab or brush lesion vigorously with two separate sterile dry swabs.
- Place swabs in individual sterile containers. DO NOT ADD ANY VIRAL OR UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA.
- Refrigerate (2–8°C) or freeze (-20°C or lower) specimens within an hour after collection.
- Maximum storage time at the following conditions: refrigerated specimens for up to 7 days and frozen specimens for up to 60 days.
- Refrigerated specimens should be shipped within 7 days of collection; frozen specimens should be shipped within 60 days of collection. Shipping on dry ice is strongly recommended. Specimens received that are >8°C will be rejected.

### Specimen Shipment to West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (WV OLS) Bioterrorism Lab

- Contact the WV OLS Bioterrorism Response Lab at 304-205-8917 prior to shipping the sample.
- Ideally, samples will be shipped immediately upon approval.
- Complete the WV OLS Bioterrorism Lab Clinical Specimen Submission form, [https://dhhr.wv.gov/ols/labs/Documents/BT/BTClinicalTestRequestForm\\_8-07.pdf](https://dhhr.wv.gov/ols/labs/Documents/BT/BTClinicalTestRequestForm_8-07.pdf).
- Package the sample swabs in an insulated Category A box with cold packs or dry ice.
- Make sure you have enough cold packs or dry ice to last for the whole transit time.
- Place the submission form in the box (protected from the ice).
- Ship the package as a Suspect Category A.
- Ship the sample(s) **FedEx next-business-day, delivery by 10:30 a.m.**, to the WV OLS Bioterrorism Lab at the address below. Recipient contact number is 304-205-8917.

WV Office of Lab Services  
ATTN: BT Lab  
167 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
South Charleston, WV 25303

- As soon as you ship the package, email the completed OLS form, FedEx tracking number, patient initials and patient birth date to [Lisa.M.Wallace@wv.gov](mailto:Lisa.M.Wallace@wv.gov), [Rosemarie.E.Karlen@wv.gov](mailto:Rosemarie.E.Karlen@wv.gov) and [Nellie.M.Cooper@wv.gov](mailto:Nellie.M.Cooper@wv.gov).